

A'nagar Hist. Historical Museum Publication



GLIMPSES OF AHMEDNAGAR

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Edited by :-

D. D. NAGARKAR, M. A. M. Ed.

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**Ahmednagar District Historical Museum
Publication**

GLIMPSES OF AHMEDNAGAR



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D. D. NAGARKAR, M. A. M. Ed.

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Sultana Chand Bibi
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Ahmednagar

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Some Reference Books :

- 1] Ahmednagar Dist. Gazetter 1885
- 2] Tale of Ahmednagar : by Capt. C. Cowley
- 3] History of Ahmednagar (in Marathi) by R. G. Mirikar
- 4] Ahmednagarchi Nizamshahi :- Translation in Marathi of
Burhan-E-Massir by Dr. B. G. Kunte
- 5] Other Reference Books.

P R E F A C E

This book "Glimpses of Ahmednagar" has been edited through sheer necessity and pressing needs. People coming as visitors from foreign countries often need the information of this area which is historically important. The new institutions which train pupils in Military Science do need local history, and the vicinity of Ahmednagar has a natural extension on all sides which lead to religious places such as Shirdi, Meherabad and other places and also to Aurangabad and Yellora where the visitors have the pleasure of witnessing the natural wall-carving and caves which are full of idols and carvings painted in beautiful colours.

I am indebted to my friend Mr. N. N. Barshikar, the President of Ahmednagar Municipal Council and The Chairman of the District Historical Museum for making every facility available for editing this book. I am also thankful to Mr. Crozier for going through the plan and notes of the book and for offering his valuable suggestions and placing advance order for some copies of the book. This has enabled us to undertake the printing of the books.

The book is the first attempt of The Historical Museum to bring the short history of Ahmednagar in print. We have to confess that because of many limitations we have not done full justice to the entire topic. However, in our second attempt we shall try to deal with important topics elaborately.

We are also thankful to the authors and editors of several reference books without the help of which the book could not have been completed.

I express my sincere gratitude to the board of trustees of Ahmednagar Dist. Historical Museum for their guidance and inspiration in this project. I also thank Shri. Suresh Joshi, Managing Trustee and A. S. Nisal Research Asstt. who helped me in all respects and also our printer Shri. Appasaheb Shinde, who has printed this book within time.

-D. D. Nagarkar

Guide to Historical Places :-

Start from Shivaji Statue or S. T. stand.

- 1] Ahmednagar Dist. Historical Museum :- Hatampura, A'Nagar.
- 2] Faragh Bagh :- Mirajgaon Road 3 Km.
- 3] Dam of Bhatodi :- Famous Battle Field between Malik Amber and Moghal, Adil Shah- via Chichondi Patil 15 Km.
- 4] Ahmednagar Fort :- on Bhingar Rd. 1.5 Km.
- 5] Tomb of Salabatkhani (Palace of Chand Bibi ?)
Pathardi Rd 9 Km.
- 6] Tomb of Alamgir Aurangzeb :- Pathardi Rd. 4 Km.
- 7] Miravali Mount :- Kapurwadi Rd. 7.5 Km.
- 8] Tomb of Shaha-sharif :- Near Damadi Mosque
- 9] Damadi Mosque :- Opposit to Fort
- 10] Kothala :- University of Nizamshahi in Sarjepura Area.
- 11] Dongargan :- Happy Valley : Vambori Rd. 18 Km.
- 12] Meherajaad :- Near Pimpalgaon Malvi 10 Km.
- 13] Behast Bagh :- Savedi Rd. 4.5 Km.
- 14] Bagh Rouza :- On the Seena Bank out side Delhi gate
- 15] Do-Boti Chirah :- Near District Court.
- 16] Changezkhan Palace :- District Court.
- 17] Nyamatkhani Palace :- Near Municipal office.
- 18] Meherabad :- Arangaon Road, 9 Km.
- 19] Back to Shivaji Statue or S. T. Stand.

GLIMPSES OF AHMEDNAGAR

1) Description :-

Ahmednagar, the main historical town in the Deccan (midway between northern & southern India) lies between $18^{\circ} 20'$ & $19^{\circ} 59'$ north latitude & $73^{\circ} 40'$ & $75^{\circ} 43'$ east longitude. The district known as Ahmednagar District with its headquarters at Ahmednagar is very irregular in shape & is at present divided into thirteen sub-divisions i. e. talukas.

The Sahyadri mountains form the northern boundary of the district for a distance of about twenty five miles & are 2000 to 3000 feet in height. The three hill forts of Kulang, Ratangad & Harishchandragad are the striking features of the rocky line of the Sahyadris. The Kalsubai range branching off at Kulang is the northern most of the three spurs & presents the appearance of a continuous & precipitous wall of the rock. The conical summit of the Kalsubai is 5427 feet in height & is the highest rocky point in the state of Maharashtra.

The Baleshvar range, the second spur of the Sahyadris which branches off at Ratangad completely traverses the Akola & Sangamner talukas forming on the north the valley of Pravara river & on the south the valley of Mula river.

The third range which is at Harishchandragad is the longest in the district, & forms the watershed between the Godavari & Bhima rivers. This range is pretty long & crosses the district on the northern side & also cuts it, extending in the vicinity of near about Ahmednagar about twenty miles in the north from Ahmednagar city. These points are known as the hills of Gorakhnath 2952 feet high, Manjarsumbha and Dongargan. At the foot of Manjarsumbha is a little glen opening towards the north, commonly known as the Happy

Valley, the natural beauty spot which attracts visitors. Some of the hills in the range attain considerable elevations, that on which the tomb of Salabat Khan is built being 3080 feet above the sea-level and 1000 feet above the town of Ahmadnagar

The district is drained by rivers Godavari, Bhima, Pravara, Adala, Mahalungi, Mula, Dhora, Ghod and Sina. Of these Godavari & Bhima are the main rivers & the others are tributaries. Very recently dams are built on the rivers Godavari near Pravaranagar, on Ghod and on the Mula. The modern system of water supply to Ahmadnagar city is from Mula dam, 17 miles on the north side.

The climate of the district is on the whole extremely genial. In the cold season which lasts from November to February the air is dry & pleasant. A hot dry wind then sets in, blowing with varying force till the middle of May. This is followed by sultry weather and rain which starts from 7th of June & lasts normally till 5th of November. It rains in Summer from the South West Monsoon winds,

The rainfall is usually heavy near the Sahyadris in Akola & plentiful in Sangamner, Rahuri, Shevgaon & Jamkhed. On the plains the rainfall is often scanty & capricious so that the district has to face drought & therefore famines intermittently. The average rainfall is 22 inches. However the Bhandardara dam in Akola sub-division, where rains are certain has helped to irrigate a considerable portion of lands through water canal system. Jayakwadi dam near Paithan between Pravarasangam & Paithan has a good capacity of water storage & has helped to irrigate lands in Aurangabad & Nanded districts. Thus lands in Sangamner, Rahuri, Kopargaon & Shrirampur sub-divisions are being irrigated through a network of canals drawn from Bhandardara & Mula dams. The dam in the Kukadi river in Shrigonda area has also irrigated a considerable portion of land. The proposed dams on the Ghod & Sina rivers will irrigate lands in some portions of Parner divisions & Karjat & Jamkhed divisions.

As far as temperature is concerned May is the hottest month with a maximum of 114° & a minimum of 68° temperature. December is the coldest month with a maximum of 88° & minimum 40° temperature. During the rainy season in Summer i. e. from June to November the climate is sultry but not unbearably so & during the rest of the months i. e. from middle of November to the end of April it is pleasant & invigorating. There are intermittent little rains some time in April & May but they are uncertain & irregular.

2) General Information :-

Ahmednagar is situated about 2300 ft. from sea level & is almost a barren piece of land surrounded on all sides by the ranges of the Sahyadri mountains. Hence the soil is not very rich & the area is void of mineral water. Therefore this district has to face drought & famines, intermittently. The State Govt. has to keep in readiness to face these natural calamities. However, efforts are on to supply the area with water through irrigation, on the strength of dams built on various small rivers. The Bhandardara dam, the Mula dam, the Ghod dam, the Kukadi dam are the main forces of water system which tries to irrigate the surrounding lands through the network of canals.

The district is rich in material used for building especially stones which are abundant in Nagar Sub-division. Various historical buildings & the fort Ahmednagar bear testimony to this. Large quantities of limestone are found in the vicinity of the fort & near Arangaon six miles from Ahmednagar.

Various types of trees cover the whole area of Ahmednagar district. The forest lands cover the hill tops & slopes & attempts are actually being made to grow more trees by the Forest Department. The staple tree of the plain forests is the babhul *Acacia Arabica*. There are number of variety of trees & they are generally used for fuel. The two most common trees are babhul & limb, *Azadirachta indica*. The western parts & the northern parts are rich in trees & produce timber used for housing purposes.

Mango trees, guava trees & grapes are other fruit bearing trees & cover the whole district. Parner Sub division & Pathardi Sub-division have good potentialities in growing mango trees. The mango is a juicy fruit & mangoes are ample in May & June. The fruits are a source of good financial income to the farmers.

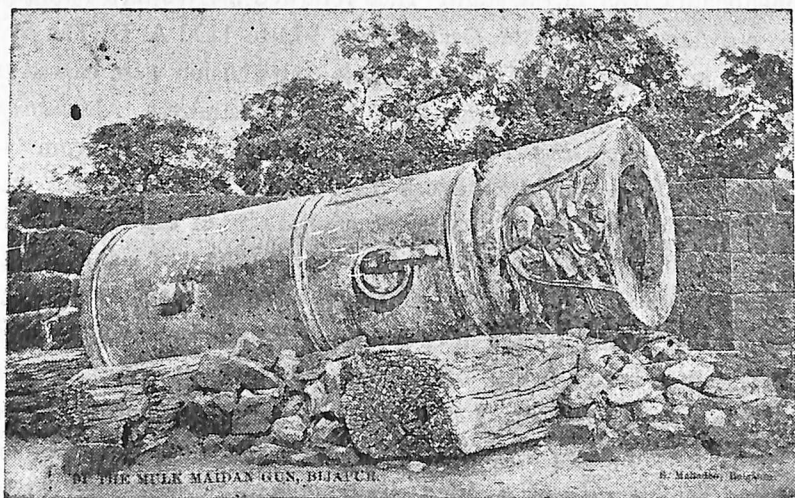
The district is extremely rich in the sugar industry. The soil & the climate are favourable to the production of sugarcane. Since most of the northern part of the district is irrigated sugarcane is heavily grown in this part. There are thirteen sugar mills. Most of them in co-operative sector in this part & each mill produces on an average two thousand finished sugar everyday during the season which lasts for seven months in a year. Molasses & wine are also the byproducts of this industry. Sugar industry is slowly spreading in the southern part of the district.

Since Ahmednagar has been the scene of many political activities the remnants in the form of temples of Hindus & Mosques of Muslims can be seen throughout the district in general & Ahmednagar city & its neighborhood in particular. Palaces & palatial buildings of older times still appear in this part of the district.

Ahmednagar district has yet another features of pride. It's home of saints & literatures. Dnyaneshwar who lived in the 13th century has done revolutionary work in literature, that of bringing the essence of philosophical & spiritual learning into Marathi, a local language of Maharashtra. Formerly all the literature appeared through the medium Sanskrit & covered mainly religious thinking & dramatical literature. Chakradhar, the contemporary figure of great renown had vowed to write the original works in Marathi. Shaikh Mohamed, Mahipatibuwa Taharabadkar composed poems depicting the lives of the saints of Maharashtra & Nilobarai the great saint, belong to this district.

Hussein Nizamshaha, Malikamber, Sultana Chand bibi – the great heroine of the Deccan. Shahaji–father of Shivaji the Great had their main political field in Ahmednagar city. Duke of Wellington has done great political activities in this city, In modern times Nana Phadanvis, the administrator of late Peshwas, Vitthal Sunder Parasharami & Trimbakji Dingle who commanded importance and respect have their origin in this district.

The struggle for Independence in the modern politics of Indian history is not without the touch of Ahmednagar and its people Rao-sahab Patwardhan, Achyutrao Patwardhan both members of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress played important & decisive roles in the freedom struggle & underground Movement Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and leaders of India were under arrest and placed in the fort of Ahmednagar for two years i. e. 1942-1944. Thus this district has the proud privilege of claiming its due share in the history of India and struggle for freedom



The giant gun – Malik – E – Maidan now in Bijapur poured in Ahmednagar by Nizamshahi gunnery in-charge Choolbe Rumikhan in 1550 A. D. in period of Burhan Nizamshaha.

3) The History of Ahmednagar

The early history of Ahmednagar starts from 240 B. C. when the vicinity is mentioned in the reference to the Mauryan Emperor Ashok. It was not a place of any district importance but small hamlets did lay in the neighbourhood of the present city and were regarded as important by-pass places in between Junner and Paithan.

The Andhrabrityas—the name of the dynasty of the ruling kings whose powers lasted from B. C. 90 to A. D. 300 and who at the time ruled the Deccan held Ahmednagar in their sway. After that the Rashtrakuta Dynasty ruled over Ahmednagar till about 400 A. D. and by the early Chalukya and Western Chalukya-kings till 670 A. D. The Rashtrakuta kings then ruled Ahmednagar from 670 to 973 A. D. Govind III (785 to 810) was the mightiest of the Rashtrakutas whose kingdom stretched from Marwar and Rajputana in the north to Tungabhadra river in the south. Then followed the Western Chalukyas whose dynasty ruled in the Deccan from 973 to 1190 A. D. The caves and temple at Harishchandragad in Akola Sub-division were carved and built during this period. After the Western Chalukyas Ahmednagar passed on to the Deogiri Yadavs who ruled the Deccan from 1170 to 1310. Deogiri [or the modern Daulatabad] seventy-four miles north-east of Ahmednagar was the capital city of the Yadavs. The most notable minister and statesman of this time was Hemadri who invented modi script (comparable to the running English script) and is still being studied by the intelligentsia. Hemadri was indeed a genius and is credited with the idea of constructing buildings without the help of lime stone and mortar. His main idea in this is to place well cut stones of medium size across each other and filling upon each other in particular angles in such a manner that walls would be erected forming the shape of a temple. Twenty six such temples scattered over the whole district bear a testimony to this. They are still strong and serve as a source of inspiration to all. His engineering intelligence is still worth emulating by others.

The famous king of Yadav was Ramdeorao and his name is mentioned in the great literary works of saint Dnyandeo in his Dnyaneshwari, the contemporary of the king. This Hemadri was the minister of this most reputed king. Otherwise strong and brave the military unpreparedness of the king led to his defeat at the hands of Alladdin Khilaji, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mogul king of Delhi, Jalaluddin Khilaji at Deogiri in 1294. This was the first ever invasion of the Musalman kings in the south across the Vindhya Mountains. This victory at the very invasion gave a fillip to the muslim ambition of establishing muslim stronghold in the Deccan. After repeated invasions the Yadav domination came to an end in 1318. Maharashtra then began to be ruled by governors appointed from Delhi & stationed at Deogiri. In 1338 Mohommed Tughlak, the emperor of Delhi made Deogiri his capital and changed its name to Daulatabad or the Abode of Wealth. Later on the Tughlak left Daulatabad and the disorderly noblemen of the Emperor harassed the people looting them and burning their houses and palatial buildings. These cruelties led to a revolt among the Muslim noblemen and the leader of one of the factions, an Afghan soldier Alladdin Hasan Gangu was successful in overthrowing the power of Delhi emperors and establishing an independent sovereign kingdom named after his Brahmin preceptor Gangu Brahmin at Gulburga in 1347. The kingdom was known as Bahamani or Brahmin kingdom. This kingdom lasted for 150 years ruled by 13 kings after Hasan Gangu Bahamani. The administration was commendable & the frame set up by Hasan Gangu proved to be a great strength. It was followed by the succeeding kings when at last a great famine fell in 1460. It was repeated in 1472 & 1473. During this time the noblemen became rather strong and disobedient. To face this administrative calamity Mohamed Gawan who was the Prime Minister contemplated to bring about a drastic change in the administration. The noblemen were greatly disturbed and influenced king, They levelled various charges against Mohamad Gawan. The king was weak enough to believe the charges and foolish enough to order the minister's execution, a loss which Bahamani power never recovered, Thus poor Gawan was put to death in 1481.

Thereafter the Bahamani kingdom was divided into five independent kingdoms. Ahmednagar was one of them, known as Nizamshahi. Mohmad Gawan was succeeded in the office of Bahamani minister by Nizam-ul-mulk Bhairi and about the year 1485 Bhir and Ahmednagar were added to his estates. The management of this area was made over to the minister's son Malik Ahmad, the founder of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. First of all Malik Ahmed made his headquarters at Junnar in Poona district.

In 1486 Nizam-ul-mulk was assassinated and Malik Ahmed became the Prime Minister of the Bahamani kingdom. Malik Ahmed was the strongest of all and was naturally held in high esteem by all. But his strength and power and his influence over others made the weak Bahamani king suspicious and wanted to put an end to him. While Malik Ahmed was away from the king, the king ordered one of his generals Jahangir Khan to march against Malik Khan. While Jahangir Khan did take upon himself this task Malik Khan was almost unprepared and had a little army with him. But with great courage and unusual tactics, he defeated Jahangir Khan and the army of Bahamani kingdom on the open grounds east of Ahmadnagar on 28th of May 1490. This victory was called the victory of the Garden because on that spot Ahmed Nizam built a palace and laid out a garden. From this time onward Ahmed Nizam continued to attack Daulatabad to lay the country waste. His headquarters, Junnar was far off from Daulatabad, so in 1494 he laid the foundation of a city close to the Victory Gardens (Bagh Nizam) upon the left bank of Sina river and called it after himself, Ahmednagar. In two years the city is said to have rivalled Bagdad & Cairo in splendour.

Ahmed Nizam was still not at peace with himself and wanted to take revenge on the Bahamani forces. He was at last successful in 1499 when he captured the fort of Daultabad and stationed his army there. To commemorate this victory Ahmed Nizam raised a wall round the Bagh Nizam (this is the present fort of Ahmednagar) and in it built a palace of red stones. Ahmed Nizam died in 1508 and was succeeded by his seven year old son Burhan.

Ahmed Nizam was indeed a great man. That he could establish an independent kingdom clearly shows his qualities and statesmanship. By his kindness, peaceful demeanour and efficiency he could win over the loyalty of the local and foreign muslims and also of the maratha peasants and warriors. Since his origin was Hindu he found no difficulty in winning over the confidence of the Brahmins who were highly regarded by the Hindus. Ahmed Nizam was also a great swordsman, administrator and general.

Burhan Nizam Shaha (1508 to 1553)

As Burhan Nizam Shaha was a child of seven Mukamil Khan Dakhani, an able statesman and general was appointed Protector of the King. When the king reached manhood he married a dancing girl, Amma and also learnt to drink wine. Mukamil Khan did not like this and he retired from public life leaving everything to the young king's care.

In 1523 Bibi Mariem the sister of Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur was given in marriage to Burhan and the nuptials were celebrated with great splendour. Asad Khan of Belgaum, the envoy of the Adil-Shah had promised the town of Sholapur as a dowry to Burhan Nizam, which he afterwards refused. This raised a quarrel amongst them and led to attacks and counter-attacks resulting into a lasting ill feeling.

Burhan Nizam Shah was indeed a great warrior and fighting was his second nature. He spent most of his years in fighting with the Khandesh and Berar kings. He was never afraid of the mighty Bahadur Shah, the king of Gujrat. One time the great Bahadur Shah marched against Burhan and stayed in the fort of Ahmednagar for a few months. Burhan Shah was never ruffled by the enemies' might though he was in league with the kings of Berar and Khandesh. At last Bahadur Shah left Ahmednagar and Burhan Nizam Shah came to terms with the Bahadur Shah's deputies.

Burhan Nizam Shah was a man of great understanding and knew the might, value and greatness of Bahdur Shah. He sent one of the saints of Ahmednagar, Shah Tahir to Gujrat and made friends with Bahadur, the Great. Burhan Nizam Shah was in constant alliance with the king of Vijaynagar, Ram Raja, Hindu king and often attacked Bijapur. At last Burhan Nizam Shah died in 1553 at the age of fifty-four, after a reign of forty-seven years. His body was embalmed and entombed at Karbela in Persia, near the burial place of Hasan the son of Ali the Prophet. He had two sons Hussain and Abdul Kadar by his favourite wife Amina and two others Shah Ali and Miran Muhammad Bukar by Bibi Marian the daughter of Yusuf Adil Shah. He had also another son Shah Haider married to the daughter of Khvaja Jahan Dakhani.

Husain Nizam Shah (1553 - 1565)

Husain Nizam Shah succeeded his father in the thirteenth year of his age. There were two parties, the Abyssinians embracing Husain Nizam Shah's cause and the Dakhani both Musalmans and Hindus—that of his brother Abdul Kadar, who at last was deserted by his party and left Ahmednagar and took refuge with the king of Berar. The other brothers fled to their uncle at Bijapur.

Husain Nizam Shah built Ahmednagar fort with stones. The fort was originally built of Mud. Now as a new addition a ditch surrounding the fort was also built to keep the enemy at a safe distance from the stone wall. Ram Raja, the Hindu king of Vijaynagar often attacked the Ahmednagar fort and pursued Husain right upto to Junnar. The Adil Shah of Bijapur often helped Ram Raja against Husain Nizam Shah. The Adil Shah of Bijapur and Husain Nizam Shah often marched against each other and tried to take revenge. Ram Raja played the role of making these muslim kings fight against one another.

Husain Nizam Shah could see the futility of nursing ill feelings against one another amongst the muslim kings. He therefore entered

into a league with the kings of Bijapur, Bedar and Golkouda against Ram Raja in 1564.

The united army of the four kings defeated Ram Raja in 1565 at Rakshastagadi. Husain Nizam Shah's elephant Gulam Ali caught Ram Raja in his trunk and brought him to Husain Nizam Shah who beheaded him. Seeing the head of their king, Ram Raja, which was struck on the point of a lance Ram Raja's army fled to Vijaynagar. The allies attacked Vijaynagar and looted it and sacked and plundered the city. After this Husain Nizam Shah died at Ahmednagar. He left four sons and four daughters.

Murtaza Nizam Shah (1565 - 1588)

Murtaza Nizam Shah, Husain's son came to the throne when he was a minor. He was commonly known as Divana or madman. His mother Khurza Sultana acted as regent for six years. The alliance between the Nizam Shah and the Adil Shah was a little disturbed on account of Vijaynagar king. The Nizam Shah and the Adil Shah marched in league against Tufalkhan who as Prime Minister of Berar had usurped a great deal of power. On their return from this invasion the Adil Shah tried to capture Murtaza Nizam Shah but the latter knowing this in advance fled back with his mother by night. Thus the old rivalry started with the incident. The king overthrew the powers of his mother and later on appointed Changiz Khan his agent. King Murtaza and Changiz Khan then marched to Berar, drove Tufal Khan and his son from Elichpur to the hills. Tufal Khan felt insulted and applied for help to Emperor Akbar of Delhi. Thus because of Tufal Khan the Delhi emperor got the opportunity of mixing in the affairs of the Deccan. Murtaza received warning from the emperor to quit Berar but he did not take any notice of this. On the contrary he continued his victorious campaign, seizing and placing in confinement Tufal Khan, his master, Burhan Imad-ul-Mulk and his family. Unfortunately, however, King Murtaza was displeased with Changiz Khan on account of some political reason, with the result that Changiz Khan was compelled to take a glass of poison. Salabat Khan

one of the great statesman was then appointed as minisier of the Nizam Shahi (by about 1579) In 1584, the sister of Bijapur King was brought over to Ahmadnagar with great pomp and dignity with the intention of getting her married Miran Husain, the Prince of Ahmednagar.

Murtaza was called a madman because his behaviour was at times strange. Once he wanted to give two beautiful necklaces as a present to one of his favourites. Salabat Khan did not like this, so he substituted these two most beautiful necklaces. The king was enraged and ordered Shlabatkhan to place all the ornaments plundered in the war against Ram Raja, the Hindu king of Vijaynagar. The minister did so and when the king knew that those two most beautiful necklaces were missing he ordered the ornaments to be thrown into fire. Thus these ornaments were put into fire. Salabat Khan lost the King's favour and was confined to jail at Danda Rajapur. Murtaza always suspected that his son was after displacing him, so once while the youth was sleeping in his chamber. Murtaza set fire to his bed clothes and fastened door upon him. Thus Murtaza tried to destroy his son.

The prince's cries for help brought his father's friend Fattah Shah to save him. He carried off the prince secretly to Daulatabad. When the king heard of this he dismissed all his ministers and appointed Mirza Khan as regent. Mirza Khan knew about the imbecility of the king. The king at such critical times released Salabat Khan, Mirza Khan. Mirza Khan managed to release the prince Miran Husain from Daulatabad and tried to reach Ahmednagar, before Salabat Khan. The prince and Mirza Khan rushed into the fort with 40000 armed men. The prince treated his father with greatest contempt and put him into a warm bathing room, close the doors and & windows lighted a great fire underneath. Thus the king was speedily suffocated to death, in 1588.

Miran Husain Nizam Shah (1588)

Miran Husain appointed Mirza Khan prime minister but never cared for anything except pleasures and excesses. Mirza Khan advised Miran Husain to put to death the male members of the royal family lest they would either go against the king or create suspicion about the royal officers. Accordingly Miran Husain put to death fifteen princes. After some days Miran Husain decided to put Mirza Khan to death. When Mirza Khan learnt this plot he captured the king and sent for cousins Ibrahim and Ismael from Poona. When they arrived in Ahmednagar, Mirza Khan called a meeting of the leading noblemen from Ahmednagar and announced in the meeting that the king was deposed and Ismael Shah a twelve year old boy was made Nizam Shah,

While the salutations to the new king were going on inside the fort, Jamal Khan, a military leader with several officers and soldiers mainly Abyssinians and Dakhanis, assembled at the gate of the fort demanding to see Miran Hussain their rightful king. Jamal Khan told the nobles and people of Ahmednagar that if Mirza Khan were allowed to act uncontrolled they would be soon slaves in their own land. Thousands of men had gathered at the gate. When Mirza Khan saw this he ordered Miran Husain's head to be cut off. The king's head was placed on pole and planted on one of the bastions.

Jamal Khan ordered the gate of the fort to be burnt. The mob then rushed into the fort, massacred the people but Mirza Khan made good his escape, but later on he was seized at Junnar and brought back to Ahmednagar. He was first carried through the city on an ass and his body mangled. The massacre continued for seven days and nearly a thousand foreigners were murdered.

Ismael Nizam Shah (1588 to 1590)

Jamal Khan acknowledged Ismael as Nizam Shah. Jamal Khan put to death all the foreigners i. e., foreign Musalmans, but had to spend most of his time and career in fighting. When Emperor Akbar

knew about the restlessness in the Deccan, he recalled Burhan Nizam (father of Ismael Shah) and allowed him to start for the Deccan. Soon after this Jamal Khan was killed in one of the battles. Burhan Nizam captured his son and confined him to prison

Burhan Nizam Shah (II) 1590 to 1594

Burhan Nizam Shah was advanced in age and gave himself to pleasures and excesses. Nothing important happened during his reign except a few skirmishes here and there. Before his death on March 15, 1594 he appointed Ibrahim his successor

Ibrahim Nizam Shah 1594

By his father's advice Ismael Nizam Shah appointed Mian Manju Dakhani his tutor to be his Prime Minister. Two parties one led by Mian Manju and the other led by Yekhlis Khan, a partisan of Ismael arose in Ahmednagar and a sort of civil war loomed large on the horizon. The Adil Shah always wanted to conquer Ahmednagar, so knowing this he marched to Ahmednagar borders. Yekhlis Khan wanted to fight but Mian Manju proposed to conclude peace so that the whole forces of the Deccan might join to meet Emperor Akbar's intended invasion. The king who was given to drinking persisted in an attack on the Bijapur Army and was shot in the head in the action which followed. Thus ended his rule of four months.

Ahmed (II) 1594-95

After Ibrahim Nizam Shah's death most of the Abyssinians felt that the king's only son Bahadur, an infant in arms should be proclaimed under the regency of Chand Bibi, his father's aunt. Mian Manju was opposed to this. Instead it was agreed to bring Ahmed, the son of Shah Tahir (who claimed to be the son of Muhammed Khudabanda brother of Husain Nizam Shah), a boy of twelve years who was imprisoned at Daulatabad. This Ahmed was crowned as Nizam Shah on 6th of August 1594. The Chiefs divided the kingdom

among themselves and removing Bahadur, the late king Ibrahim's son from the charge of his aunt sent him by force to the fortress of Chavand.

Soon a quarrel arose among the chiefs and bloodshed became the rule of the day Mian Manju wanted to overcome all the disorder and so he wrote a letter to Prince Murad, Emperor Akbar's son who was then in Gujrat to march his army to Ahmednagar, Murad who was waiting for an opportunity to invade Deccan promptly accepted this invitation.

While Murad was on march to Ahmednagar many noblemen left Yekhlas Khan and joined Mian Manju. Mian Manju now repented of his earlier mistake of sending an invitation to Prince Murad and decided to resist Prince Murad in the interest of Nizam Shahi. So he marched out of Ahmednagar with Ahmed in his possession and requested Chand Bibi to accept regency and protect the fort and repulse the attack of Prince Murad. Yekhlas Khan also escaped.

Chand Bibi accepted the regency and proclaimed Bahadur Shah king of Ahmednagar. Prince Murad attacked the fort of Ahmednagar but his attack was bravely repulsed by Queen Chand Bibi. At last she gave Berar to Prince Murad and he withdrew.

In 1599 Akbar despatched Prince Danyal Mirza and Khan Khanan to Ahmednagar. Prince Danyal laid siege to the fort. Sultana Chand Bibi could not bring about an effective resistance. So she decided to negotiate terms with Prince Danyal. But Hamid Khan, one of the noblemen in the fort ran cut in the streets saying that Chand Bibi was in treaty with the Moguls for the delivery of the fort. The short-sighted and ungrateful Dakhani ran to her apartment and put her to death. Thereupon the Moguls entered the fort and conquered it. Bahadur was arrested and sent to Delhi and afterwards confined in the fort of Gwalior. Then Emperor Akbar made over Khandesh and Ahmednagar to Prince Danyal.

Murtaza Nizam Shah (1600 - 1613)

Though Emperor Akbar appointed his officers to look after the kingdom of the Deccan, the Nizam Shah's officers refused to believe them. They had lost their independence. They declared Murtaza, the son of Shah Ali king and made Paranda, about 75 miles south east of Ahmednagar capital.

The two famous officers Malik Ambar an Abyssinian and Mian Raju Dakhani, in spite of the presence of the Moghul forces, held the territory for about twenty years. Malik Ambar was a genius and laid out a system of marking land and counting land revenue.

Malik Ambar was the regent of the Nizam Shah from 1607 to 1626. During this period he increased the strength and power of Murtaza Nizam Shah and raised a large army. He changed the capital from Paranda to Junnar and founded a new city, Khadki which was later on changed to Aurangabad by the Emperor Aurangzeb when he invaded the Deccan (1658 to 1707), Malik Ambar thrust defeats on the Moghul General Khan Khanan many times and attacked Ahmednagar often.

Lakhuji Jadhavrao, Maloji Bhosale, Shahaji Bhosale and other Maratha chiefs had gained great prominence during this period and with the help of these Maratha Chiefs. Malik Ambar had captured Ahmednagar fort and town from the Moghals. But in one of the battles Malik Ambar was defeated by the Moghals and had to lose the fort of Ahmednagar. Many Maratha Chiefs and especially Lakhuji Jadhavrao joined the Moghals. Shah Jahan - Prince of Delhi once again laid a crushing blow to Malik Ambar in one of the battles and further decreased his power.

Malik Ambar was a great statesman and soldier. He humbled the might of the Moghal and Adil Shah of Bijapur and raised the falling status of the Nizam Shah. Though defeated by the Moghals he was never cowed down by their might. He died in 1626 at the age of 80 (eighty).

Malik Ambar had two sons, Fatteh Khan and Changiz Khan of whom Fatteh Khan succeeded his father as the regent of Nizam Shah.

In 1629 Murtaza Nizam Shah II came of age. He was wanting in ability and unfit to meet the difficulties that surrounded him. He could not bear the supremacy of the regent, so he managed to put Fatteh Khan behind the bars. In this confusion, Shahji Bhosale joined the Moghals. Shah Jahan, the Moghal Emperor marched to the Deccan at this time. Murtaza Nizam Shah seeing the danger of attack set Fatteh Khan free and appointed him his minister. Foreseeing the ruin of the Nizam Shah, the Bijapur king declared war on the Moghals. Fatteh Khan who did not forget insults done to him by the Nizam Shah turned all his powers to Murtaza's destruction. Aided by Murtaza's weakness and unpopularity Fatteh Khan was strong enough to put Murtaza to death and to take the government into his own hands in 1631. After assuming full powers he submitted to Shah Jahan and set an infant on the throne and professed that he held his dignity from the Emperor.

In 1632 Shah Jahan returned to Delhi, leaving Mohbat Khan in command of the Deccan. Mohbat Khan always kept a watchful eye on Fatteh Khan whom he had shut in Daulatabad. The siege was often resisted but Fatteh Khan was soon defeated and the infant Nizam Shah was captured and sent to prison at Gwalior. Fatteh Khan at last entered the services of the Moghals. Mohabat Khan was called to Delhi in 1634.

After Mohabat Khan's exit Nizam Shahi which seemed to have come to an end was revived by Sahaji Bhosale, who disgusted at the treatment by the Moghals had in the mean time joined the Bijapur King and fought against Moghals. Shahaji proclaimed another prince as the lawful heir of Nizam Shah and assuming the regency captured the former Nizam Shahi domain. Shah Jahan marched to the Deccan and attacked the Nizam Shah's area and the Bijapur kings. After a

long struggle the Adil Shah decided to conclude treaty with Shah Jahan and secured peace by agreeing to pay ransom every year, and in return secured the South and South-east portions of the Nizam Shahi dominions. Shahaji held for some time but submitted at length, gave up his pretended king and with Shah Jahan's consent entered the Bijapur service. Thus ended the Nizam Shahi in 1636.

Moghals or the rule of Delhi (1636 to 1759)

Shivaji, the Maratha king who rose to powers after attacked Ahmednagar and its neighbourhood. For the Moghals, Shivaji was a regular terror. Though he did not really possess a strong and large army Shivaji's army resorted to guerrilla warfare and harassed the Moghal army.

Shah Jahan appointed Aurangzeb as the viceroy in 1636 and again in 1650. Shivaji personally invaded Ahmednagar in 1657 and in 1665. At other times Shivaji's minister and generals attacked Ahmednagar intermittently.

Shivaji established independent kingdom with a view to bring about perfect unity among the Indians irrespective of caste and creeds and to discontinue the spirit of aloofness between the Hindus and the Muslims. Shivaji was a great general, great statesman and a person of rare qualities and great foresight. He risked his life to bring about this great task. Unfortunately he was often misunderstood by the contemporary historians, since he had often to fight against the Muslim king and especially Aurangzeb who did great injustice to people other than Muslims by levying Jizia Tax (Rs. 13 per head) on each individual. He came to Maharashtra i. e. the Deccan, in 1683 after Shivaji's death in 1680 and started exacting Jizia Tax from the Hindus. This led to a great rebellion and the Marathas (residents of Deccan) harassed Aurangzeb and his army under their kings Sambhaji and Rajaram (both were the sons of Shivaji) and their generals Dhanaji and Santaji. Aurangzeb captured the Maratha king Sambhaji and slew him most mercilessly but this so enraged the Maratha that

they vowed to inflict defeat on the Moghals. Aurangzeb tried to put an end to the independent kingdom of the Marathas but he never succeeded in this and at last died in Ahmednagar on 21st of February 1707. His attempts to put down the Maratha failed tragically. Shortly after this the fall of the Moghal power in Deccan was completed by the revolt of Chin Kilich Khan (Nizam-ul-Mulk), the governor of Malva. Ahmednagar was one of the parts of the Deccan which became subject to the Nizam and remained in his hands till his death in 1748.

The Rule of the Marathas (1759 to 1817)

After the death of Nizam-ul-Mulk there issued a quarrel between his two sons Salabat Jung and Ghazi-ud-din. In this political mess the Nizam's commandant Kavi Jung betrayed the fort of Ahmednagar to the Peshwa, the minister of the Maratha power. War followed between the Nizam & the Peshwas & the Nizam was defeated in 1760 at Udgir. Besides other concessions the Nizam confirmed the grant of Ahmednagar and Daulatabad and also gave up the greater part of the province of Ahmednagar. The Nizam was again defeated by the Maratha in 1795 at Kharda. After the death of Sawai Madhavrao Peshwa in 1795, quarrels arose among the Maratha Noblemen. In 1797 Daulatrao Sindia took the fort of Ahmednagar from Bajirao Peshwa, as a price of his help to him to raise him to the post of Peshwa. The famous statesman Nana Fadnavis was imprisoned in Ahmednagar fort in 1797 by Sindia. At last he was released in 1798 but sorely discouraged, Nana Fadnavis died in 1800.

Bajirao Peshwa was continuously harassed by Yeshwantrao Holkar and Daulatrao Sindia. So he concluded a treaty with the British for the safety of his Ministership, on 31st December 1802, at Bassein. Now the noblemen had to fight with the British might. General Wellesley attacked Ahmednagar city and captured it. Then he laid a siege to Ahmednagar fort on 9th of August 1803 and captured it on 12th of August 1803. General Wellesley then returned the fort to the Peshwa soon i. e., in 1803. The Holkar also came to terms

with the British. There was widespread disorder in the area due to famine and hundreds were looted, murdered and massacred by the Pendharies. There was a rebellion against the British rule by common people headed by Trimbakji Dengale of Sangamner. The British troops soon brought the circumstances under control with the help of their disciplined soldiers. At last a treaty was concluded with Bajirao Peshwa at Poona by virtue of which the Ahmednagar Fort was handed over to the English.

British Rule (1817 to 1947)

When the British Government took possession of Ahmednagar much of it was almost ruined. Many former rich areas were depopulated because of famine and continuous fighting between the British soldiers and the freedom fighters. They continued to rise in arms taking resort to villages and the hills and mountains—mostly Parner, Jamgaon and Akola areas. The Kolies and the Bhils harassed the British troops intermittently. Raghoji Bhangria headed this mutiny. At last he was caught at Pandharpur in 1847 and was immediately hanged.

During the great freedom Struggle of 1857 (which the British call Sepoys' Mutiny) Ahmednagar was a scene of considerable disturbance. The active freedom fighters were about 7000 Bhils under the leadership of Bhagoji Naik. They were active in the hilly tracks and especially in the Parner, Jamgaon, Rahuri, Kopargaon and Nasik areas. But at last all these attempts to rise against the British failed and the slavery came to stay. By about 1880 it was almost quiet everywhere.

People now knew that it was extremely difficult to fight against the British because of their own drawbacks. The Indians miserably lacked in discipline in all fields in general and in social, political and cultural fields in particular. They now understood that scattered military rebellions without a disciplined army based on a sound footing of advanced cultured civilization would be useless and hence the Indians started organising themselves in social and political fields. Since all the weapons from all sections of the Indian people were taken away by the British Government an organised military movement became impossible.

Social leaders like Mahadeo Govind Ranade who headed the judicial Department probed into the ills of Indian Society soon found out that the Indians were lacking in the modern education. Hence he tried his best in bringing modern education within the reach of the common people by establishing educational institutions, and spreading the learning of English.

Mahatma Phule did his best in establishing schools for woman and taking education to the doors of the most backward classes. Lokmanya Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Gopal Hari Deshmukh did yeomen's work in the spread of education.

Lokmanya Tilak organised political movement in the whole of India and was put behind bars by the British Government. But he passed away in 1920 Mahatma Gandhi took up the leadership in 1920 and carried on the responsibility of organising Civil Disobedience Movements. Thousands offered Satyagraha and courted arrest. The Satyagraha Movements were launched many times between 1920 to 1941. The last unarmed Movement was spontaneously started by all the Indians throughout the length and breadth of the country from 9th of August 1942 upto 1944. All the leaders of India including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Syed Mahmood, Shankarrao Deo, were arrested. Most of the leaders excepting Gandhi were kept in the Ahmednagar Fort. Jawaharlal Nehru, wrote his famous book "The Discovery of India" in Ahmednagar Fort.

The famous leaders of Ahmednagar Raosaheb Patwardhan was underground for many days. Achyutrao Patwardhan was never arrested by the British since he was carrying on the Freedom Struggle by remaining underground. The veteran leader of Ahmednagar District Senapati Pandurang Mahadeo Bapat was the most fearless and was one of the greatest disciplines on Mahatma Gandhi. He carried on the Mulshi Satyagraha bravely and was arrested in 1937. He was kept

behind the bars till India achieved her independence. Senapati Bapat never cared for anything and was ever prepared to lay down his life in the Freedom Struggle.

India attained her freedom on 15th of August 1947 and all the brave leaders were released from the imprisonment. The flag salutation ceremony took place on the ramparts of the Ahmednagar Fort at 8 a.m. on 15th of August 1947 at the auspicious hands of Acharya Narendra Dev. who was interned in the Fort for a long time during the struggle for freedom. It was touching sight worthy to be watched by Gods.

Some Features of old Ahmednagar

The old Ahmednagar was quite different from its present appearance. It covered an area of six miles from the present railway station to the present town of Bhingar with its surroundings on the south and north. The Bhingar area was further extended by the Cantonment area. This still is in existence.

Ahmed Nizam Shah founded Ahmednagar in 1494 and therefore this city is named after his name. It was found on the left bank of the Sina river. In two years the city is said have rivalled Bagdad and Cairo in splendour. This very Ahmed Nizam Shaha built the present fort with mud in 1490 and Hussain Nizam Shah rebuilt the fort with the present stone masonry and dug the present ditch around the fort in 1562.

The whole city which was moderate in size was surrounded by walls built of stone and mud masonry below and white mud masonry above. They were 12 to 13 feet high, six feet broad and about three miles round. The walls were built about 1631 by Sarjekhan one of Shah Jahan's nobles. There were eleven gates set in this huge circular wall. They were the Jhenda and the Baya Bangal gates on the east, the Maliwada or Railway and Fergusson gates in the south, the Nepti and Nalegaon gate in the west and the Delhi, Tophkhana, Sarjepura, Mangal and King gates in the north.

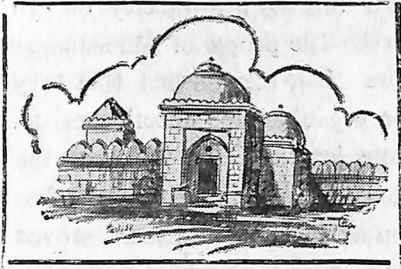
It seems that the British captured this old historic city on 8th August 1803, but not without dear strife. The people of Ahmednagar were hard fighting and brave to the core. It is their ill luck that they did not find any able leader to give an organised and effective resistance at that very crucial and momentous juncture. All the same the might of Ahmednagar was humbled down from 8th of August 1803 to 8th of August 1942 when the rebellion against the Britishers staved off once again on the nationwide basis under the unique leadership of Gandhiji and in Ahmednagar under the leadership of Raosaheb and Achyutrao Patwardhan and many other local patriots.



Ahmednagar Fort



“Kot-Bagh Nizam” –Ahmednagar Fort Royal residence and Administrative Centre of Nizamshahi Dynasty from 1490 A. D.



4) Historical places of Ahmednagar

1) Ahmednagar Fort

Ahmednagar fort is on the eastern side of Ahmednagar city about half a mile way. It is so built that only the topmost part of it can be seen from the road, the rest of the part being hidden by the glacis. There is a great dry ditch, eighty five to one hundred and eighty wide and fourteen to twenty feet deep. The fort is built of stone masonry which is masson throughout. The fort has two entrances, the chief of which is on the western side. At this entrance the most is crossed by wooden suspension bridge swung on thick iron chains, and the road, sky the principal bastion, enters the fort through two gate-ways placed at right angles with doors studded with large miles to guard against elephants. At the eastern gate tha moat is crossed by a chain suspension bridge. The walls of fort rising about 30 feet from the bottom of the bitch consist of a number of semi-circular bastions eighty-five yards apart, connected by curtains with parapets varying from five to ten feet in height, pierced in most places by loopholes. Behind the parapet a six feet wide path runs round toe top of the wall. The bastions have embrasures. The fort has in all 22 bastions.

The fort was first built in 1490 by Ahmed Nizam Shah to commemorate his victory over Jahangir Khan. It was built in mud but later on built in stone masonry by Hussaid Nizam Shah between 1553-1565. The famous queen the Deccan Sultana Chand Bibi fought like a heroine against her most formidable Moghul Prince Murad in 1596 and inflicted a heavy defeat on him. In 1759 the fort was captured by the Maratha kings and remained in their hands till General Wellesley captured it on 12th of August 1803

Between 1803 and 1817 many Maratha noblemen were kept as prisoners in this fort. In the first Great World War many German soldiers were kept in this fort as prisoners.

In 1945 many Indian patriots like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Acharya Narendra Dev were detained in the fort. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote his world famous book 'The Discovery of India' in this very fort.

Recently a third entrance on the northern side is built in 1943. This is now the route in regular use. The army offices occupy the present fort and is now open to any one

A number of mosques, tombs and mansions were built during the Nizam Shahi dynasty. They are described in brief below.

2. Rumikhan's mosque or Makka Mosque

This mosque is built in the reign of the second king Burhan Nizam Shah (1508-1553) by Rummy Khan Dakhni the caster of the great Bijapur gun Malik-i-Maidan. It is about 40 feet long north and south by about 30 feet broad east and west and on its front has an enclosure surrounded by mud walls about seven feet high. The mosque has two floors, the ground floor intended for a rest house and the top floor for a place of worship. The four round stone pillars on which the roof rests are said to be brought from Makka. This is how the mosque is known as Makka mosque. It is situated between the Sarjapura and Mangalga'e.

3. Khwaja Sherif's Haveli

This is an old palace and is called after Khwaja Sherif, the brother of Kavi Jung. There is also a mosque in the enclosure. Besides the mansion and the mosque the enclosure has a few houses, some of them occupied by the descendants of the Khwaja Sherif. A fair or Tajia in honour of Khwaja Sherif is made every year during

Muharram holidays The bier is held second in rank to the Bara Imam's bier and hundreds of people offer sweetmeats and oil to it in fulfilment of vows.

4 Nyamatkhan's Palace & Mosque

This is almost in ruins except the mosque which is well looked after and recently bears a new appearance. All these buildings were in the vicinity of the present Municipal buildings The mosque is on the other side of the road opposite the Municipal building

5) Mengni Mahal or Benna Mahal

The Mahal is now used as the civil jail. It was built in 1570 in honour of the marriage of Nyamatkhan Dakhni.

6) Sarjekhan's Palace & Mosque

Sarjekhan's palace, 100 yards north of Mengni Mahal is a ruined stone mansion (28' X 18') now used as a small cause court after repairs. Close to the mosque is Sarjekhan's tomb which is covered with an elegant cut stone rectangular canopy surmounted by a dome supported on open arches In the east-wall is a small hollow which is called the Doboti Chira (two finger hole) meaning that any two fingers can be inset in it This mosque is now known as Doboti Chira Masjid The palace and the mosque were built round about 1561.

7) Changizkhan's Palace

Changizkhan's palace was built in the reign of the 3rd Ahmed-nagar king Husain Nizam Shah (1553-1565) about 68 yards north east of Sarjekhan's palace and mosque. It is a fine upper storeyed building in the court yard of the District court.

8) Kavi Jung's Mahal

Kavi Jang's Mahal is said to have been built by 1750 by Kavi Jang, the Nizam's Commandant. The palace (81' X 33') is of dressed stone and lime masonry. It has three floors and is presently occupied

by a popular hotel, an association of merchants and a secondary girls school, Laxmibai Bhaurao Patil Kanya Shala.

9) Kotla Mosque

The Mosque known as the Kotla Mosque near the Mangal Gate was built by Burhan Nizam Shah (1508-1553) in 1536 under the advice of his minister Shah Tahir. When Burhan embraced Shia faith, Burhan presented the mosque to Shah Tahir and intended it to be a charitable institution and college. It was largely endowed with a large amount based on generous donations and revenues from a village in Nawsa Sub-division. The mosque has since been used as a Bara-Imam's (Twelve Saints) holy place and during the Muharram holidays thousands of people of all religions offer presents, sweetmeats and sweet oil for the fulfilment of prayers and vows. The sweets are distributed on the Muharram Day when a huge procession of the bier or taja of these twelve saints is taken out throughout the main streets of Ahmednagar city even up-to-date

10) Rumi Khan's tomb or pile Ghumat

About 100 yards north of Kotla is Rumi Khan's tomb, also called Pila Ghumat as Yellow Dome. The tomb is 18 ft. square and forty feet high. The walls are four feet thick. In the enclosure close along side the tomb a large hollow, about 100 ft. by 60 ft. and six feet deep is said to be the mould in which the great Bijapur gun (largest in the world) Malik-i-maidan was cast in 1549.

11) Bagh Rauza

Just outside Ahmednagar city on the west side after crossing the Delhi Gate you arrive at the Bagh Rauza or the Garden of the Shrine where King Ahmed Nizam Shah (1490-1508) is buried. This is one of the finest buildings of Ahmednagar. In the centre of the building with other tombs on both sides is the tomb of Ahmed Nizam Shah. Immediately to the left is a stone platform about ten feet high and eighteen feet square. Under this is buried the body of the elephant Gulam Ali which captured Ramraja of Vijaynagar in the great battle of Talikota. (1565)

12) Adhai Ghumats

Near Savedi about one and half miles to the north of the city east of the Manmad road there are two large domed tombs as the Adhai Ghumats. About 1579 a Jamdar (a sort of a policeman) in Murtaza's service (1565 to 1588) suspecting the chastity of his mistress, killed her and her lover, a rich Delhi trader. The merchant left a large property from which the two tombs were built. They are now the property of the American Mission.

13) The Damadi Mosque

The mosque is on the north side of the fort and is notable for its elaborate carving and large stones. It is built in 1567 by a noble named Shahirkhan. The workers who were working at the fort some years earlier paid a damadi (a coin of the smallest denomination) every day from their wages.

14) Jamalkhan's Mosque (Tomb of Shah Sharif)

Jamalkhan's mosque is in the vicinity opposite to the Damadi Mosque. It was built by the famous minister Jamalkhan in the reign of Murtaza Nizam Shah (1565 to 1588). Near the mosque a square stone building surrounded by a cupola contains the tomb of the great saint Shah Sharif Maloji Bhosale, the great Maratha Chief. He did not have any son to him for a long time. Greatly disappointed he approached the cupola of Shah Sharif and most humbly offered his humble prayers and offered vows. Before long his wife gave a birth to two sons, known as Shahaji and Sharifaji. This very Shahaji was in the service of the Nizamshahi for a long time. He is the father of Shivaji the Great.

15) Farah Bagh

Farah Bagh is about two miles south east of the city and was built by Changizkhan & Nyamatkhan for Burhan Nizam Shah I (1508-1553). Burhan Shah did not like the building and ordered it to be pulled down. At last a new building was built in 1583. The palace is octagonal with a flat roof upper storey. The central hall has a dome about

thirty feet high. The building is 250 feet in diameter and built of rough stone and lime masonry, plastered inside and outside with stucco. Round the palace is a dry pond about 150 feet wide and about seventeen feet deep which was fed by Bhingar aqueduct. About 500 years round the pond the ground was made into a fine garden. Now the building is almost in ruin.

16) Hast Behist Bagh

This Bagh or garden is three miles away on the north of the city. There is a ruined palace and garden but the surroundings are still beautiful. It was built in 1506 by Ahmed Nizam Shah. Inside the garden in the middle of a large pond was built an eight-sided storeyed palace representing the eight gates of Paradise which according to Muhammadon belief has eight doors. Water was brought by a duct from the villages of Vadgaon and Shendi and on the banks of the pond another high palace with out-houses was built. Burhan Nizam Shah, the second king named it the Hast, Behist or Eighth Paradise and made in it eight flower-beds watered by canal from the Sina, and enlivened with singing-birds. Now this grandeur is ruined and only the remains are seen.

17) Miravali Baba's Tomb

On the Miravali hills about three miles north east of the city is Syed-Ishak's mosque and tomb. The mosque was built by one Syed Ishak who was buried near it in 1565.

18) Salabat Khan's Tomb

This tomb which can be seen from any part of Ahmednagar is about six miles away from the city on the eastern side. Locally it is known as Chand Bibi's mahal, but in fact it is the tomb of Salabat Khan II, the famous minister of Murtaza Nizam Shah, I (1565-1588). The hill known as Shah Dongar is about 900 feet above Ahmednagar and 3080 feet above sea level.

The building is plain but the eight-sided platform, the three tiers of pointed arches and the dome have all much beauty of form. By the simple contrivance of a stone terrace built about twelve feet high and 100 yards broad the tomb seems to rise with considerable dignity from the centre of an octagon. The tomb has angular holes so placed that the rising and the setting Sunlight falls on it. The tower is about seventy feet high and the base about 12 feet wide while the galleries are about 20 feet broad.

19) Tomb of Alamgir Aurangzeb

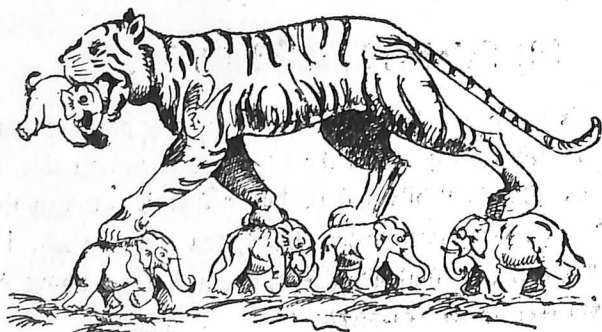
Moghal Emperor Alamgir Aurangzeb died near Bhingar due to his old age in 1707 AD. He was on way to Delhi. Simple tomb was erected on the place where his dead body was bathed. Baradari mosque and ~~Langarkhana~~ are some other buildings now in use.

Langarkhana

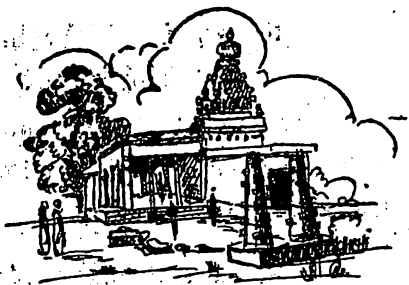
20) Tomb of Shah Sharif

North to the Fort on 1 Km. there is a tomb of Sufi saint named Shah-Sharif, now famous as "Durgah Diara". He was brought to Ahmednagar in the period of Burhan Nizam Shah (1508-1553 A. D.) with his sister Bibi Achima. He used to perform his prayers and lived there saintly life. It is a famous story Maloji Raja Bhosale prayed to this saint and with his spiritual blessings, he got two sons. Their names were Shahaji and Sharifaji. He also tried to compromise Shia and Sunni conflict. The period of the Shah Sharif is said to be 1526 to 1617 A. D. Many local stories about his spiritual force and blessings are famous around the City.

Program of Nizamshahi



5) Famous places nearabout Ahmednagar



1) Dnyaneshwar Temple at Newasa



Dnyaneshwar (1275 to 1296) was a famous saint who has translated Shrimad Bhagwatgita with his own commentary in Marathi. This is revolutionary work in the field of literature. Shrimad Bhagwatgita is a philosophical, religious and holy book of the Hindus and has scriptural holiness. It is told by Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the remote past. It has a poetical beauty and everlasting freshness of the science of the ways of life. Since it is in Sanskrit, it was beyond the understanding capacity of common people. Dnyaneshwar brought it within their easy reach by translating it. The temple at Newasa contains a stone pillar against which Dnyaneshwar used to lean while writing down his famous work. There now stands a huge temple with auditorium to commemorate the writing of the Great 'Dnyaneshwari' which is the name of the commentary.

2) Sai Baba's Temple at Shirdi

Sai Baba was a great Saint of Shirdi, a place about 58 miles away from Ahmednagar in Kopergaon Subdivision. It can be reached by train via Kopergaon or direct by motor bus from Ahmednagar. Shirdi is looked upon as a holy place and a small fair is held on every Thursday. The place has a beautiful shrine of Sai Baba.



3) Avatar Meherbaba's Centres at Meherabad & Meherazad

“ When God becomes man it is due to his love for his beings. so it is possible through love for man to become God ” said Avatar Meher Baba

Meher Baba, by name Meherwan Sheriar Irani, was born in Poona (India) on the 25th of February 1894, in a middle-class Zoroastrian of family Persian origin. His father Sheriar Mundegar was born in Persia. His thirst for spiritual enlightenment brought him in India. He married the daughter of Persian merchant who had migrated to India with his family in Poona.

Meherwan took his education in Poona at Sardar Dastur School, St Vincent's High School and Deccan College. One day in January 1914 Hazarat Baba Jan-Mohammedan, a woman saint pointed a commanding finger at Meherwan and declared to the people This Child of mine will create a great sensation in the world and do immense good to humanity.”

The same year he had the first contact with Sai Baba of Shirdi. Sai Baba looked at him and loudly called out - ‘Parvardigar.’

Then he met Sadguru Upasani Maharaj of Sakori, to whom he was inwardly directed by Sai Baba. At that time Upasani Maharaj declared before his follower : Merwan, you are the Ancient one, Avatar.”

When Merwan was known as Meher Baba, he told his followers,- ‘Baba Jan, gave me divine bless, Sai Baba gave me Divine Power and Upasani Maharaj gave me Divine Knowledge.”

In 1923 MeherBaba established a colony on the outskirts of Arangaon, six miles from Ahmednagar, named Meher-abad [Meherabad] These included a free school for boys of all castes and creeds, a free hospital and dispensary, shelter for the poor, a boarding school named ‘Prem Ashram’

Since 1948 Meher Baba had made his abode at 'Meherazad' nine miles from Ahmednagar and close to the village of Pimpalgaon Malvi. Here he lived most of the time with a few of his disciples.

Meher Baba observed complete silence without a break from 10th July 1925 till 31st Jan. 1969 when he dropped his body. His body was kept in a tomb at Meherabad Hill for seven days for the thousands of his lovers from East and West, to take his darshan.

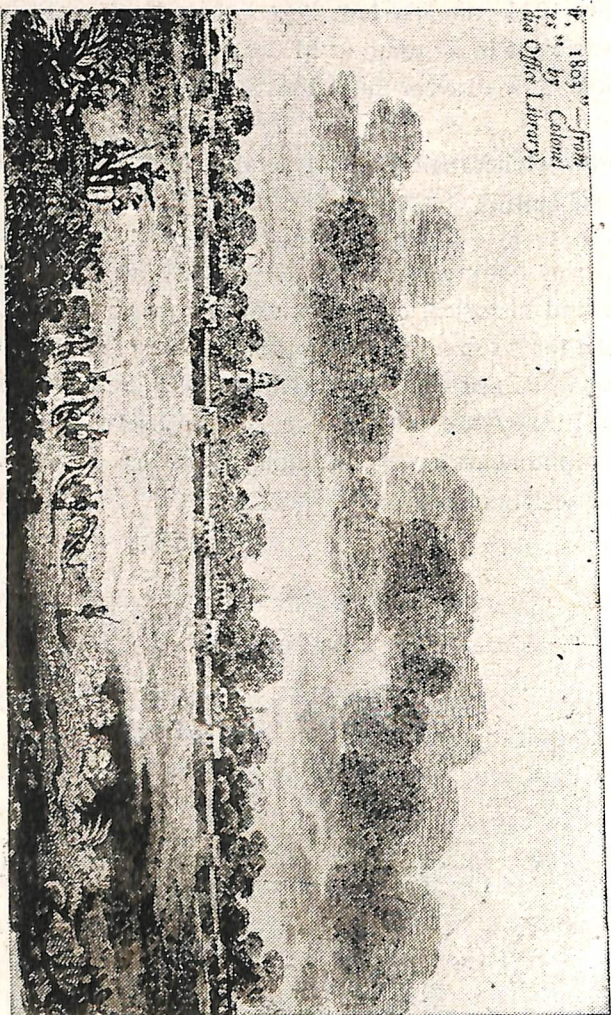
Now Meherabad and Meherazad both are the centres of East and West culture.

In this book we have briefly surveyed the Ahmednagar District in general and historical city - Ahmednagar in particular. This city has suffered a lot to save its independence, so very few monuments remain standing in ruined conditions. Though they are not magnificent and beautiful, they are witnesses of the mediaeval history of Deccan. These monuments are still telling the story of their life, to the anxious visitors.



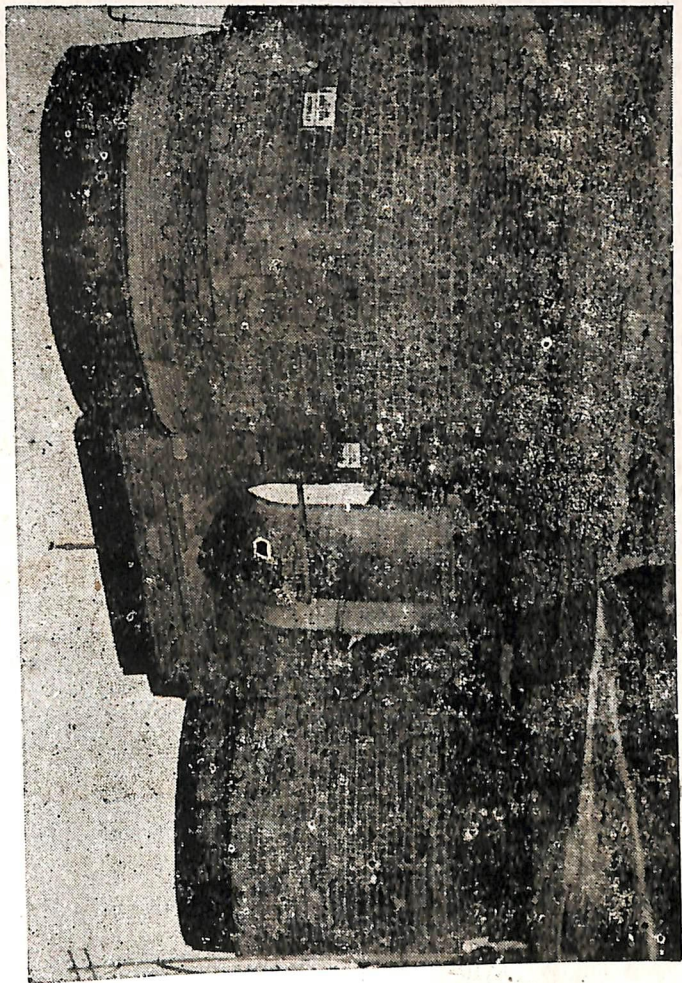
-: Ahmednagar Fort In 1803 :-

"1803" - from
"by Colonel
Office Library).

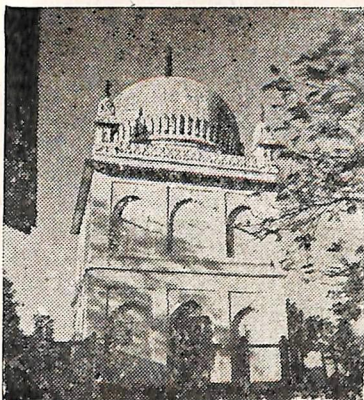


From Reminiscences by Colonel Courtesy of India
Office Library in India.

Maliwada Gate



Entrance of the Ahmednagar.



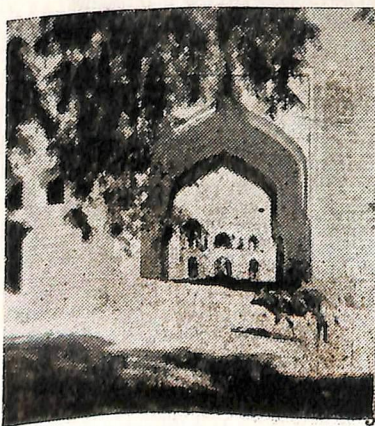
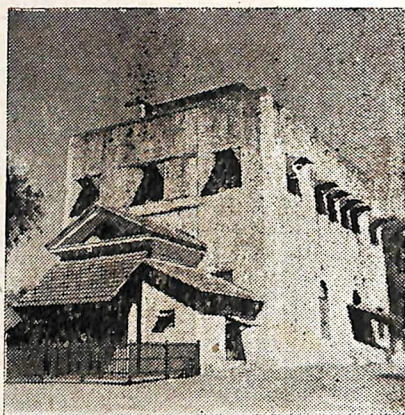
Shah-Sharif Tomb

[Darga Daira]

Shah-Sharif was famous Sufi Saint in the regime of Burhan Shah I (1508-1553 A D) He came from Gujarath and tried to compromise between Shiya-Sunnis conflict

Changizkhan's Palace

Changizkhan's palace was built in the regime of the 3rd Ahmed-nagar king Husain Nizam Shah. It is a fine upper storeyed building in the court yard of the District court.



Hast Behist Bagh-

Three miles away on the north of the city It was built in 1506 by AhmedNizam Shah I Inside the garden in the middle of a large pond, was built on eight sided storeyed palace representing the eight gates of Paradise.

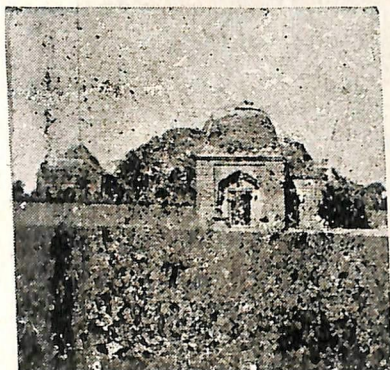
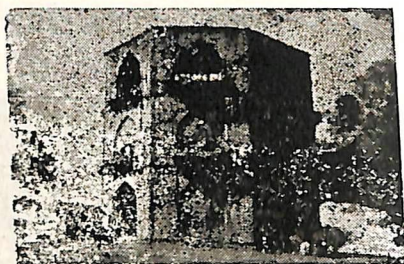
Tomb of Gulam Ali Elephant



To the left of Bagh-Rauza is a stone and masonry platform about ten feet high and eighteen feet square. It is said to be raised on the place where lies buried the body of Elephant Gulam Ali, which captured Ram Raja in the famous battle of Tali ot. Near by stands the tomb of driver of the elephant

-: Salabatkhani's Tomb :-

Six miles away from the city on the eastern side It is known as Chand Bibi's Mahal, but in fact it is the tomb of Salabatkhani II, the famous minister of Muraza Nizam Shah I. The building is about 900 feet above Ahmednagar and 3080 feet above sea level.

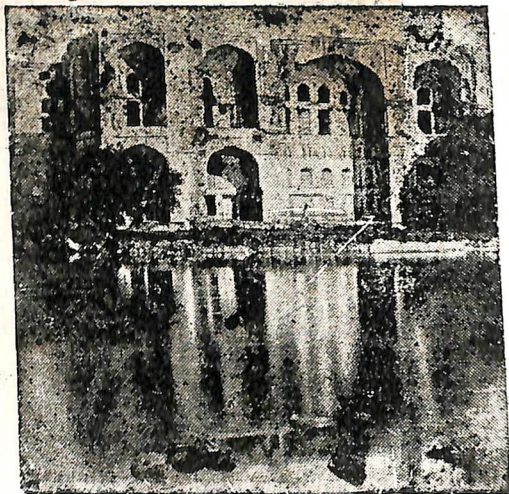


Bagh Rauza-

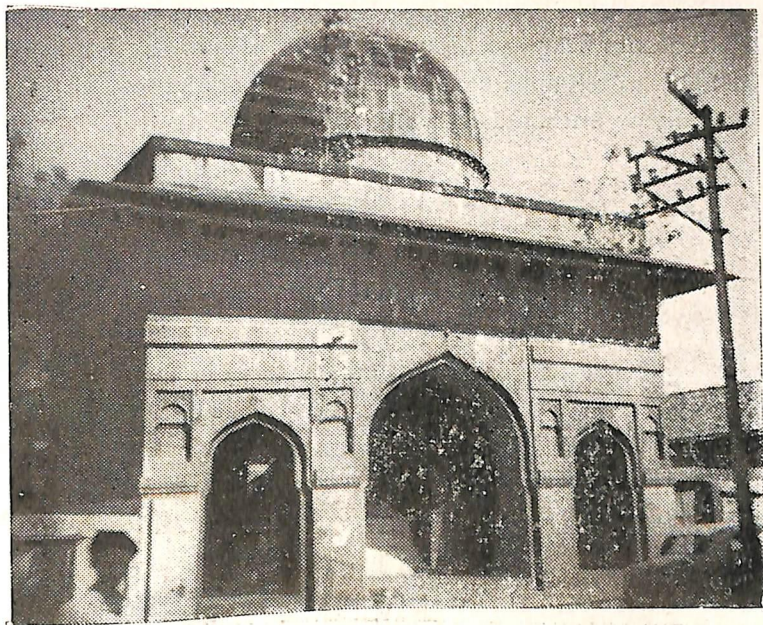
Outside city on the west side after crossing the Delhi-Gate In this building King Ahmed Nizam Shah was buried in 1508 A. D.

Farah Bagh -

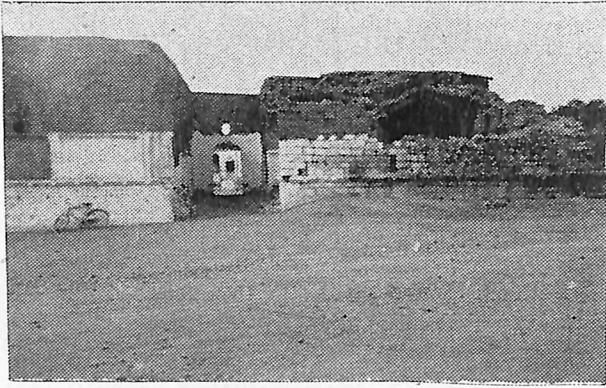
Farah Bagh is about two miles away south-east of the city and was built by Changizkhan and Nyamatkhan for Burhan Nizam Shah I The palace is octagonal with a flat roof upper storey. The building is 250 feet in diameter and built of rough stone and lime masonry, plastered inside and outside with stucco



—: Tomb of Saarkhan :-
(Do-Boti Chirah)



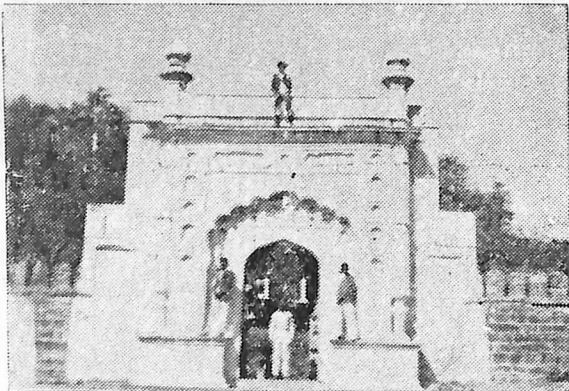
-: KOTHALA :-



The Kothala near the Mangal-Gate, was built by Burhan Nizam Shah in 1536 as religious centre under the advice of his minister Shah Tahir when Burhan embraced Shia faith



-: Tomb of Alamgir Aurangzeb :-



Moghal Emperor Alamgir Aurangzeb died near Bhingar in 1707 A D. Simple tomb was erected on the place where his dead body was bathed.

Correction Slip

Page No.	Line No.	Incorrect	Correct
Preface	17	books	book
	27	guidence	guidance
"	22	watershead	watershed
1	21	materiai	material
3	9	Most of	-most of
4	20	features	feature
"	21	litteratures	litterateurs
"	29	Taharabadkar	Taharabadkar
"		composed	who compose
6	27	accross	across
"	"	filling	piling
11	Last	compellad	compelled
12	4	married Miran	married with Miran
"	10	Shlabatkhan	Salabatkhan
"	25	Mirza Khan, Mirza Khan	Mirza Khan
"	30	Close the door	Closed the doors
"	"	and & windows	and windows
"		lighted	and lighted
14	18	I eecun might joint	Deccan might join
15	25	ran cut	ran out
"	27	for.	fort.
15	20	Maratha Chiefs-	Maratha Chiefs,
"	Last	(eighty	(eighty)
18	2	ranson every	ransom every
"	8	aften	often
16	Last	o	to
20	1	wide spred	widespread
21	2	Department probed	Department and probed
"	7	woman	women
"	30	disciplines on	disciples of
22	9	wa ched	watched
"	18	found	founded

Page No.	Line No.	Incorrect	Correct
22	19	said have revalled	said to have rivalled
23	4	on	an
"	7	stoved by	stood up
"	8	against	again
"	"	besis	basis
24	9	eighty wide	eighty feet wide
"	10	masson	massive
"	12	most	moat
"	13	sky	skirting
"	15	miles	nails
"	"	tha	the
"	17	bitch	ditch
"	25	Hussaid	Hussain
25	4	1945	1942
"	11	bnilt	built
"	23	Mangal gae.	Mangal gate.
"	last	dur in	during
26	6	apperance	appearance
"	24	uper	upper
27	15	maine	main
"	19	Ghumat as Yellow	Ghumat or Yellow
28	24	gave a birth	gave birth
29	5	500 years	500 yards
30	13	Laugakhana	Langarkhana
32	8	of family persian	family of persian
"	30	poor, a boarding	poor, and a boarding
Block Plates-			
4	3	burried	buried
5	6	Mur aza	Murtaza
"	15	15081 A. D.	1508 A. D.

Cover No. 2 last line :- Musenm

Museum



Delhi-Darwaja Gate



North Gate of the Ahmednagar.

3/2

[Ahmednagar District Historical Museum]:-

**Ahmednagar District Historical Museum
of Municipal Council**

Public Trust No. E 127 (A)

Hatampura, AHMEDNAGAR

A'Nagar Dist. is Famous for :

- * Oldest Habitations of Pre-Historic man.
- * Sainly traditions of all religions and Sects.
- * Many Historical Places of Nizamshahi Period
(16th—17th Century)

Museum at Glance :

- * Stone-Age tools and Chalcolithic Remains.
- * Beautiful Miniature Paintings of Various Schools
(16th to 19th Century)
- * Rare Antiquities of Mediaeval Period.
- * Bronze and Stone idols of 12th Century.
- * Historical documents and Manuscripts.

Please Contact For :—

Any historical information regarding Historical
Monuments—around the City and District,

Time :— 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. to 5-30 P.M.

Except :— Thursday.

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